

Saipan aboard the USS LST 481, headed for the shores of Iwo Jima. Private First Class Ruhl displayed his courage from the onset of D-day at Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Johnny recognized his role early on in the battle attacking a group of eight Japanese soldiers single-handedly. Private First Class Ruhl confirmed his valor and bravery by risking his own life to rescue a marine wounded ahead of the front line—ensuring that the man was transported to an aid station, regardless of the threat to Ruhl.

Ruhl continued to establish his commitment to the cause by returning from the aid station to voluntarily investigate an abandoned Japanese gun emplacement. With boundless courage, he prevented the enemy from regaining possession of the valuable site by occupying the position throughout the night. On February 21, Johnny demonstrated his true selfless nature. As Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division pushed forward on their quest to capture Mount Suribachi, Private First Class Ruhl along with his platoon guide, pressed their position to the top of a Japanese bunker. As the marines prepared to fire upon the enemy troops, a grenade landed between them. While notifying the platoon guide, Ruhl dove onto the grenade, absorbing the full detonation with his body. This sacrifice saved the lives of all of the nearby marines. Thanks in great part to this selfless act, Company E was able to raise an American flag on the top of Mount Suribachi.

In awarding Private First Class Ruhl the Medal of Honor posthumously, President Truman recognized Johnny's efforts, stating "An indomitable fighter, PFC Ruhl rendered heroic service toward the defeat of a ruthless enemy." . . . Certainly Truman was correct when he continued praising Ruhl's dedication to our Nation and his fellow marines, ". . . his valor, initiative and unfaltering spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of almost certain death sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

PFC Donald J. Ruhl embodied the Marine Corps motto, *Semper Fidelis*, committing his life, and his death, to loyalty to the Corps and his country. The community of Greybull has done well to recognize this hero. They have demonstrated their faithfulness to his memory by renaming his eternal resting place. His gift to our country will never be forgotten—in passing his memorial, we will forever know that Donald J. Ruhl gave all so our country could remain free.

NATIONAL HEREDITARY HEMORRHAGIC TELANGIECTASIA MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia—HHT—Month to raise awareness of this

public health threat and encourage greater prevention, diagnosis and treatment efforts.

Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia, HHT, also referred to as Osler-Weber-Rendu Syndrome, is a complex genetic blood vessel disorder that affects approximately 70,000, or 1 in 5,000, Americans. It is characterized by irregular blood vessel growths, or telangiectases, in the nasal mucosa, mouth, gastrointestinal tract, and skin of the face and hands, as well as artery-vein malformations—AVMs—in the major organs including the lungs, brain, and liver. If left misdiagnosed or untreated, HHT can result in considerable morbidity and mortality.

It is estimated that 20 to 40 percent of debilitating and life-threatening complications and sudden death due to these "vascular time bombs" are preventable. Twenty percent of those with HHT, regardless of age, suffer death or disability. HHT has been subject to underreporting for many years. Approximately 90 percent of the HHT population is not yet diagnosed and is at risk for sudden rupture of the blood vessels in major organs in the body, such as the brain and lungs, and other complications due to nosebleeds and gastrointestinal bleeding.

It is my hope that efforts throughout the month of June will increase awareness of HHT and mitigate the preventable health threats posed by this disorder.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CLARENCE S. PARKER

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleague, Senator ISAKSON, today to honor the accomplishments of COL Clarence S. Parker of Valdosta, GA, in the RECORD of the Senate.

For most of his life, Colonel Parker has been a dedicated pilot. In 1940, when the United States was on the brink of war, Colonel Parker was prepared to fight for his loved ones and his nation. A native of Houston, TX, Colonel Parker began his lengthy career in aviation while enrolled as a student at the University of Houston.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Colonel Parker entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in January of 1942. He completed military flight training and was commissioned in September of that year. During World War II, Colonel Parker was an instructor pilot at Waco Army Airfield, primarily in the BT-13 and the P-40 aircraft. He flew during the early phases of the Berlin Airlift, and later ascended to a position of leadership as the chief of flight procedures from 1948 until the end of the airlift. In 1950, he returned to the U.S. to serve at the Pentagon in the U.S. Air Force Headquarters and also at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. Following service in Vietnam, he fin-

ished his military career as wing commander at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, GA, flying T-37 and T-38 aircraft.

Following his retirement in 1971, Colonel Parker made Valdosta, GA, his home. He became heavily involved in the operations and upkeep of the Valdosta Municipal Airport and began a second career in banking. During his tenure as chairman of the airport authority from 1987 to 2005, he was instrumental in earning funding for several major construction projects, including a project to lengthen the main instrument runway to 8,002 feet.

Colonel Parker remains an active pilot with over 7,500 hours of flight time. He continues to work with the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce to benefit the flying activities at both Moody Air Force Base and in the Valdosta civil aviation community. Additionally, he remains a consultant to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority.

Colonel Parker has enjoyed a career that is extraordinary in length, quality of service, and leadership. For these reasons, he has been selected to receive the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes pilots who have maintained safe flight operations for 50 or more consecutive years. We can think of no higher award for a pilot, and we are proud to recognize Colonel Parker for his receipt of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH MARGARET AKER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Margaret Aker, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Sarah is a graduate of Sturgis Brown High School, Sturgis, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in chemistry and political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sarah for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEATON JACE BAUMAN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Keaton Jace Bauman, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Keaton is a graduate of Huron High School in Huron, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in history and political science. He is a hard